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THE NATION

CIA Linked to Probe

Central Intelligence Agency director George Bush has met with key Justice Department officials to aid in the federal investigation of the Washington bombing death last month of former Chilean Ambassador Orlando Letelier, according to reliable sources.

The CIA director conferred Monday with Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger and Assistant U.S. Attorney Eugene M. Propper, who is coordinating the investigation, a source close to the investigation said. The meeting was the first indication that top officials at the CIA and the Justice Department were involved in the investigation.

The CIA's role poses sensitive ethical and legal questions, according to officials close to the probe, because the agency was involved in efforts to overthrow the Chilean regime of the late President Salvador Allende, in which Letelier was a top official, and because its charter restricts its domestic activities.